

AMENDMENT (clean version of claims)

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of enhancing the solubility of iron amino acid chelates and iron proteinates comprising admixing an effective amount of an organic acid solubilizing agent with an iron amino acid chelate or iron proteinate having a ligand to metal molar ratio from about 1:1 to 4:1, wherein the solubilizing agent to iron content weight ratio is from about 5:1 to 1:1.

Please cancel claim 4.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) A method of enhancing the solubility of an iron amino acid chelate- or iron proteinate-sugar complex comprising admixing an effective amount of an organic acid solubilizing agent into said iron amino acid chelate- or iron proteinate-sugar complex, wherein the solubilizing agent to iron content ratio is from about 4:1 to 1:1 by weight.

Please cancel claim 21.

REMARKS

In the office action mailed October 15, 2002, claims 1-28 were rejected.

Specifically, the following actions were taken by the Examiner:

- 1) claims 1-3, 12, 13, 17, 23, and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO Patent Application 98/48648 (hereinafter "Henry")
- 2) claims 4-9, 11, 14-16, 18-22, 24, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Henry;